

Rothman Brings Home Nearly \$3.4 Million for Bergen & Hudson County Safety and Security Measures

Congressman

NEWS RELEASE

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ROTHMAN KEEPS NEW JERSEY SAFE, BRINGS HOME NEARLY \$3.4 MILLION FOR BERGEN & HUDSON COUNTY SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES

--House Passes Final Version of

Commerce, Justice, Science, State Appropriations Bill for 2006 --

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) announced today that he helped to secure nearly \$3.4 million in Congressional appropriations for New Jersey's safety programs and security measures in the Fiscal Year 2006 Science and Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations Act. The bill passed the House Wednesday, November 9th, by a vote of 397-19.

As the first Bergen County Congressman to sit on the powerful House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history, Rothman obtained federal funds for numerous projects in New Jersey to bolster homeland security efforts. This includes securing \$250,000 for the Bergen County Justice Center to purchase proximity card readers and fingerprint scanners that will enhance the police department's ability to serve the public and protect themselves in a line of duty. The Edgewater Police Department will receive \$50,000 to overhaul the Borough's antiquated communications system, with a new state of the art system for police, fire, and ambulance services. Similarly, the Secaucus Police Department will receive \$50,000 to replace their outmoded dispatch equipment, which currently does not permit communication with the town's fire, EMS, or other public safety agencies. Both Secaucus and Edgewater are located near the Hudson River and between the George Washington Bridge and Lincoln Tunnel. This creates a need for an effective communications system within the Police Departments, which must be prepared to handle emergencies originating in New York City. The bill also includes \$300,000 for Fairleigh Dickinson University for their computer forensic laboratory to help law enforcement professionals and prosecutors acquire and analyze digital evidence.

"Homeland Security continues to be one of the highest priorities for our nation, state, and towns," said Rothman. "I am pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle worked together to provide our nation with the funding it needs to improve our public safety and equip our first responders with the newest technology they need to combat terrorism."

Rothman also reinforced his commitment to keep our area's youth and the disadvantaged protected from drugs and violence by securing more than \$1.1 million for the Doe Fund's innovative Ready, Willing & Able program. The Doe Fund is a non-profit organization that provides jobs along with other social services to the homeless in Jersey City, NJ and other parts of the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. The bill also includes \$100,000 for D.A.R.E. New Jersey to implement its new curriculum in middle schools statewide; \$750,000 for the New Jersey Police Athletic League State-Wide After-School Program to combat after-school juvenile crime; \$50,000 for the Wired Kids Teen Angel Program to train teens to protect themselves from Internet fraud, privacy violations, and predators and to teach them about the proper use of intellectual property.

"We live in a society in which programs like The Doe Fund, D.A.R.E. and Wired Kids are necessary. I continue in my commitment to these vitally important programs that help our children, the homeless, and the disadvantaged. Funding these programs that keep our young people and the disadvantaged protected from drugs and violence is the morally right thing to do. It saves lives and families while also saving our society enormous sums of money," said Rothman.

The SSJC Appropriations bill also includes \$250,000 for the Liberty Science Center, which is the most visited museum in New Jersey and one of the most intensively used in the country. St. Peter's College will receive \$500,000 to enhance its Physical Sciences and Human Factors Education and Research. Both initiatives expand student learning opportunities.

The SSJC Appropriations bill is one of the spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. The measure next moves to the White House where President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.

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